

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MARSEI 00558 230829Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /054 W
----- 103313 /15

R 221545Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1296
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL NICE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MARSEILLE 558

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT FR
SUBJECT: COMMUNIST-SOCIALIST ELECTION DISPUTE IN MARSEILLE

1. DEPUTY MAYOR GASTON DEFFERRE'S RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SOCIALISTS WILL NOT JOIN WITH COMMUNISTS TO FORM LIST FOR FIRST ROUND OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS HAS BROUGHT PROTESTS AND A CALL FOR RECONSIDERATION COMMUNISTS.

2. DEFFERRE REASONS THAT SEPARATE LISTS WILL ALLOW SOCIALIS AND COMMUNIST CANDIDATES TO WIN IN VOTING SECTORS OF MARSEILLE WHERE THEY HAVE INDIVIDUAL STRENGTH AND PUBLIC SUPPORT. HE HAS STATED THAT COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS ON COMMON LIST FOR FIRST VOTE COULD WELL LOSE INDIVIDUAL SECTORS TO MAJORITY CANDIDATES OR "RIGHT". HE HAS REPLIED TO COMMUNIST PROTEST BY STATING HIS TACTIC WLL INSURE UNION OF LEFT VICTORY IN SECOND ROUND WITH SOCIALISTS, RADICALS OF LEFT AND COMMUNISTS THROWING MUTUAL SUPPORT TO THEIR BEST PLACED SECTOR CANDIDATES.

3. UNKNOWN QUANTITY AT THIS POINT IS NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT
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INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL JOIN DEFFERRE LIST FOR FIRST ROUND. HE HAS ALWAYS DRAWN STRENGTH FROM WHAT HE TERMS "PERSONALITIES" OF CITY INCLUDING BUSINESSMEN, LAWYERS, FORMER MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT MAJORITY WHO RESPECT DEFFERRE AND RELY ON HIS ANTI-COMMUNISM. HIS PROMISE TO INCLUDE SOME COMMUNISTS IN CITY GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING "THE VICTORY OF THE LEFT" MAY NOW BLUNT

THEIR ENTHUSIASM. IN UNUSUAL ACTION DEFFERRE HAS ASKED THESE SUPPORTERS TO CONFIRM IN WRITING THEIR INTENTION OF JOINING HIS LIST.

4. REACTION OF GOVERNMENT MAJORITY (MARSELLE-AVENIR) IS TO PLAY DEFFERE'S MOVE AS AN UNMASKING OF HIS TTRUE POLITICWL FACE AND PROOF THAT HE PLACES NATIONAL POLITICS ABOVE THE GOOD OF THE CITY.

CNSERVATIVE DPLY LE MERIDIONAL IS ATTACKING HIS STAND AND WARNING "NON-POLITICAL PERSONALITIES" OF MARSEILLE WHO SUPPORT DEFERRE

"DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY" THAT THEY ARE "DELIVERING THE CITY TO THE COMMUNISTS."

SIMPSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, ELECTIONS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MARSEI00558
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760470-1095
From: MARSEILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761221/aaaaarpv.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNIST-SOCIALIST ELECTION DISPUTE IN MARSEILLE
TAGS: PINT, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006